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Opinion Essay D2

13-June-2011

Should prayer be allowed in schools?

Highness Zayed Bin Sultan did something in 2001 makes many people in my country and the neighbor countries divide in two parts, part supported the idea, and I am one of them, and the other opposed the idea. His highness allowed prayers in school and allocated an open amount of money to build places to pray for the students depend on the religions on each school. Many people disagree and said that there will be waste of time, interrupting the students and the teachers and will enlarge the gap between the students who are not believe on the same religion. Consequently, there was a period of time that citizens and immigrants were arguing each other it “should”, no it “shouldn’t”. On that time, the same title printed on many newspapers all over the country, as if the newspaper’s leaders agreed to write the same title; which was “Should prayer be allowed in schools?”

On that time, I was in my primary school and I was not really aware about what is going on in our school. Every morning different group of students tries to persuade the others to do something. I was not really sure what was it because the students and the teachers used high level and complicated words in order to grab and persuade the other side. I voted yes, because I knew that “yes” will change something in the school and I wanted to see the change. Two years later, “Now, I am old enough to understand what was happening”. I surprised from the decision that the other side (shouldn’t) was supporting because of three reasons. These reasons are, it is a freedom, some students believe that prayer gives them confidence and will help them in their study; last, some parents wanted their children to grow up with a good religious basic.

One of the major things that comes with every single child when he/she born and never leave him until he/she died is freedom. If I was born free, no one has the right to take off my freedom except the one who gave it to me (The God). No one can prevent a person from doing something forever. For example about school, if there is a place to pray and there is a student want to pray, the school cannot prevent him from praying or at least this prevention will not exist for a long time. If the school closes the place that students use to pray in, the student will pray as soon as they arrived home because this is the habits that they grew up with. Unfortunately, there will be bad consequences that will harm the school itself. First, some students will not be comfortable in the school and that’s may lead the students to have bad grades at the end. Second, the students who have been prevented from praying will see and think that every single decision is standing against them; but, in fact, it is not. Last but not least, Students may take the decisions to leave the school in order to find the freedom that they are missing. There is only one solution in this situation, which is “ give the students the freedom to do the things that they want unless these things will harm the public”.

Yet another reason that makes me insists that giving students the freedom to pray should be allowed in schools. Some students, usually who believe in god, believe that praying to god in order to get good grades would be helpful for them and god will help them with their studies. When these students pray in school, usually before quizzes and tests, they feel kind of comfortable and confidence so when they take these exams, they do not feel stressed as other students so they get good grades. I have had this experience before, even If you don’t think it is helpful, just do it and try to believe that you will be fine; the results will shock you.

Many students, like me, trust in god. Similarly, Many nations trust in god. Lets take The United States for example, If you have any bill (currency) 1$, 5$, 10$ …, just turn it over and you would see a sentence from four words say “In God We Trust”.

One of the reasons that made many parents participate and vote that prayer should be allowed in schools is that these parents want their children to grow up with the “religion” stated in their son’s mind. These parents also believe that schools should teach the students the religious lessons before the other lessons. As a result, if the school refuses to let the students pray, parents would transfer their children to another school would allow it and these schools are the only looser side.

From my perspective, prayer should be allowed in schools because it shows a part of religion, thoughts and believes freedom. Also, it gives the parents the opportunity to let their children grow on the way that they want. Moreover, it would let the students to live with their believes without any problems and that’s will lead the students to get good grades because they have no more excuses. That is why prayer should be allowed in schools and that’s why I agreed with the idea that highness Zayed thought of. In all, all of that happened because of the good vision of highness Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan which was focusing on the future more than the present.